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1. National Council of Women of Great Britain

(Special consultative status granted in 2000)

NCWGB, a voluntary organization open to all women, continues to work to improve the lives and opportunities for women, in association with our numerous nationally affiliated organizations, which encompass many aspects of education and social welfare. Nationally and internationally, NCWGB continues to work within the framework of the United Nations agenda for women, cooperating with sister NGOs in Europe and worldwide via the International Council of Women.

The aims and purposes of NCWGB remain:

- To improve the quality of life for all
- To remove discrimination against women and to enable women to participate effectively at all levels, and in every aspect of the life of the community
- To provide a forum for women to exchange information and ideas, formulate policy, educate and promote change

During the reporting period (2000-2003), NCWGB continued to expand its earlier longstanding involvement in work related to the United Nations agenda.

- NCWGB delegations have attended all annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as other relevant United Nations meetings and events, including the 2001 World Conference against Racism.
- The work of the Commission on the Status of Women and related developments have been reported in our newsletter for members and affiliated organizations, and policy resolutions relating to the Commission's agenda have been presented and ratified at every NCWGB annual conference. Follow-up work on Commission resolutions and on work under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women has been undertaken through representations and letters to British Government departments and other organizations in the United Kingdom.
- Action towards the Millennium Development Goals has been included in the NCWGB agenda.

Other major initiatives undertaken during the period covered by this quadrennial report include:

- A seminar on the theme "Women's voices at the United Nations", with speakers experienced in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, was presented at the NCWGB annual conference 2000 to highlight the significance of our special consultative status with the Council. Policy resolutions debated and ratified at this annual conference in 2000 covered the optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child; control of the arms trade; and enforcement of the law against female genital mutilation.
- Human rights and race relations. NCWGB has taken part in a range of activities since United Kingdom human rights legislation was introduced at the end of 2000. NCWGB policy resolutions covering the need for specific

education on human rights and the need for racial tolerance, and drawing attention to disadvantaged groups, such as refugees and asylum-seekers, have been forwarded to the United Kingdom Government.

- A survey and report on attitudes and perceptions of race relations was conducted by NCWGB among members in preparation for the World Conference against Racism.

- Trafficking in women has been an area of particular concern during the period 2000-2003, with several well attended NCWGB seminars on the subject, and discussions with Government, emphasizing the need for speedy action and more severe penalties. (The latter have now been introduced.) Work is also continuing on this increasing problem with sister organizations in Europe.

- The United Nations "Culture of peace". Two NCWGB members were appointed United Nations Association (United Kingdom) peace patrons, entrusted with the task of alerting other organizations to the importance of this United Nations initiative. Work with the Association continued throughout the period 2000-2003. During the period of hostilities in Afghanistan and later in Iraq, letters were sent by NCWGB to the British Government on various subjects, including the need to protect the civilian population in time of armed combat, and expressing concern about water supplies and the use of cluster bombs, which are similar in effect to landmines. The need for United Nations involvement and for work within the framework of the United Nations, was also covered in a seminar in 2003 and in Conference discussions, and our views were notified to the United Kingdom Government.

- Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The importance of this resolution was the subject of an NCWGB seminar held in 2003 on the theme "Women, war and peace", concerned with safeguarding the role of women in situations of armed combat and women's involvement in activities to restore and rebuild peace. Letters were also sent to the British Government emphasizing the importance of the inclusion of women in work towards rehabilitation and peacemaking.

- Women in decision-making and the role of the media in work towards equality. These subjects were considered at NCWGB annual conferences in 2002 and 2003, following discussions in annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. Again, letters were sent by NCWGB to Government and all relevant public bodies, including broadcasting authorities, emphasizing the importance of the more equal representation of women at all levels of decision-making in society and the significance of the media's role in this connection. A seminar on the importance of international work by media bodies to improve the public perception of the woman's role in society was held in 2002.

- Child labour and exploitation of children in slavery and armed combat. The Convention on the Rights of the Child has been supported publicly by NCWGB in policy resolutions within the United Kingdom (2001), and at the Triennial Conference of the International Council of Women in Australia (2003). NCWGB has called for the appointment of a Children's Commissioner in the United Kingdom, and has successfully proposed policy resolutions in

Britain and Australia on action to prevent the exploitation of children in situations of armed combat, e.g., as child soldiers.

- NCWGB action at annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. NCWGB has circulated two discussion papers at meetings of the Commission, relating (2001) to work to raise awareness within the United Kingdom of health risks arising from certain cultural practices affecting girls; and (2002) to the effects of natural disasters affecting water on poverty among women. Members have also taken part in, and assisted in organizing, side-events sponsored at Commission sessions by the United Kingdom Women's National Commission on various aspects of discrimination affecting the lives of women, including violence against women, human rights and most recently on the effects and purposes of resolution 1325 (2000).

- Millennium Development Goals. Topics covered in the Millennium Development Goals have been and continue to be included on the NCWGB agenda, such as the effects of water on women's poverty and HIV/AIDS and sustainable development.

2. Radin Institute for Family Health Education and Promotion

(Special consultative status granted in 2000)

The Radin Institute for Family Health Education and Promotion (RIFHEP) is a health, non-profit, non-governmental organization which was established in 1997. RIFHEP maintains and raises its profile nationally and internationally and tries to contribute to family and community health promotion through advocacy, education, the facilitation of networks and scientific debate, and support for best practices in research and prevention.

Objectives

- To recognize health as a core international sustainable development strategy and an asset for poverty eradication.

- To strive for protection, improvement and promotion of physical, emotional and social well-being within the family and community, based on a comprehensive approach that integrates social, economic and environmental influences on health.

- To represent the scientific perspective in regional and global family and reproductive health issues by promoting best practices in research and interventions, providing advocacy for adequate resources for research and training, being a source of independent expert advice and stimulating scientific debate on key issues.

- To place reproductive and family health on the agenda for policy makers, the public and the media.

- To promote best practices and resources to help health educators and health care providers build effective, comprehensive reproductive and family health programmes.

- To provide adolescents and women with opportunities to gain the information, support, skills and leadership they need to make healthy decisions.
- To educate policy makers and decision makers at all levels of Governments about issues relevant to the reproductive and family health.
- To work with entertainment and news media to foster public awareness and support for model reproductive and family health programmes.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

Receiving special consultative status with the Council and association with the Department of Public Information in 2000 opened a new door for achieving RIFHEP goals and objectives. RIFHEP representatives have regularly monitored sessions of the General Assembly, when appropriate; sessions of the Council and its subsidiary bodies in New York; sessions of UNICEF in New York; and the weekly briefings for non-governmental organizations conducted in New York by the Department of Public Information.

RIFHEP was represented at the following United Nations-related meetings and events:

- NGO Millennium Forum, May 2000
- DPI/NGO annual conference, on the theme "Global solidarity: the way to peace and international cooperation", August 2000
- Preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on Children, January-February 2001
- Preparatory process for the high-level international event on financing for development, February 2001
- Commission for Social Development, thirty-ninth session
- Commission for Social Development acting as the preparatory committee for the second World Assembly on Ageing, February-March 2001
- Commission on the Status of Women, forty-fifth session
- Commission on Population and Development, thirty-fourth session
- Preparatory process for the high-level international event on financing for development, April-May 2001
- Preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on Children, June 2001
- Special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, June 2001
- DPI/NGO annual conference, on the theme "Diversity of the volunteer experience", September 2001
- Second World Assembly on Ageing, April 2001
- Twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly, June 2001
- Preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, January-February 2002

- Commission on the Status of Women, forty-sixth session
- Preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, March-April 2002
- Special session of the General Assembly on children, May 2002
- World Summit on Sustainable Development, August-September 2002
- DPI/NGO annual conference, on the theme "Rebuilding societies emerging from conflict: a shared responsibility", September 2002
- High-level segment of the substantive session of 2002 of the Council
- Commission on the Status of Women, forty-seventh session, 3-14 March 2003, United Nations Headquarters, New York

3. Rehab Group

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

The Rehab Group is an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization providing services to people with disabilities and others who are marginalized within society. Since 2000, the number of people to whom the Rehab Group provides services annually has grown from approximately 24,000 to over 40,000 in 2003. The Group continues to provide a wide range of services to people throughout Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Direct involvement of Rehab Group in United Nations-organized activity in this period included:

- Participation in the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development.
- Rehab Group submitted an advance written shadow report and made an oral presentation on Ireland's second report to the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights in May 2002.
- Rehab Group participated in a number of CONGO board meetings raising issues related to disability. Following preliminary meetings, it is hoped to establish a sub-group of the Human Rights Committee that will deal with disability issues, and preliminary meetings have taken place in this regard.

Developments to support the work of the United Nations at the national level

The work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a draft United Nations convention on the rights of people with disabilities is a matter of major importance to Rehab Group. Rehab Group has taken an increasingly involved role in this process at the national level through our position on the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs/NGO Standing Committee on Human Rights and other international organizations. Our colleagues in Landmines Survivors Network have made daily, close monitoring of events possible for the Rehab Group.

To ensure better understanding and engagement on the Convention within the Irish NGO sector, Rehab Group undertook to organize a seminar for all disability

organizations in Ireland which was to be held between the 2004 drafting session and the Ad Hoc Committee session in June 2004. Following representations from Rehab Group, meetings with relevant Government officials were secured for 2004 and, in principle, on an ongoing basis throughout the process.

Through membership of the National Women's Council of Ireland, Rehab Group has contributed to submissions to government on strategies to ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

In 2001/02, Rehab Group developed submissions to the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism, on strategies for working with people with disabilities to combat racism, and development of measures to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Rehab Group centres nationwide have both held and participated in a number of events annually to promote the International Day of Disabled persons on 3 December.

European Year of People with Disabilities 2003

The European Commission designated 2003 the European Year of People with Disabilities, in part to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. This initiative has been strongly supported by Rehab Group, with a number of different projects undertaken to promote the rights of people with disabilities as well as their skills and abilities.

International partnerships

Rehab Group continues to build partnerships with numerous international organizations, such as Rehabilitation International, to promote best practice in the development of services to people with disabilities and to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities globally.

Rehab Group has facilitated international study/exchange visits of groups from all over the world. In 2001, Rehab Group hosted a two-week study visit by the China Disabled Persons Federation of Rehab Group services throughout Ireland. A return visit of Rehab Group staff member provided lectures on Irish rehabilitation and vocational training practice. Study visits from other groups have included beneficiaries from throughout the European Union; New Zealand; Australia; Hong Kong, China; and the new EU countries Slovenia, Poland and Hungary.

4. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

(Special consultative status granted in 1948)

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) was among the first group of NGOs to obtain consultative status with the Council in 1948, and has sustained an active presence at the United Nations in Geneva and New York since then; is also currently represented in Rome, Paris and several

regional United Nations centres; and monitors all United Nations treaty bodies and meetings, as well as all United Nations conferences relevant to its mandate.

The founding aims and principles of WILPF are:

- To bring together women of different political beliefs and philosophies who are united in their determination to study, make known and help abolish the causes and the legitimization of war.
- To work towards world peace; total and universal disarmament; the abolition of violence and coercion in the settlement of conflict and its replacement in every case by negotiation and conciliation.
- To support the United Nations system.
- To support the continuous development and implementation of international and humanitarian law.
- To promote political and social equality and economic equity.
- To contribute towards cooperation among all people.
- To enhance environmentally sustainable development.

During the reporting period, WILPF intensified its activities in the field of disarmament and women peace and security through increasing its human and economic resources towards enhancing transparency of United Nations meetings and processes through using communications technologies, making information, speeches and outcome documents available to its membership, partner organizations and the public; and through taking up a strong role in facilitating NGO collaborative efforts, coordinating the coalition of NGOs that supported Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and securing funds to initiate several projects to enhance NGO preparation and participation in United Nations meetings.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

WILPF participates annually in the Commission on the Status of Women, conducting awareness-raising activities prior to the session, facilitating or co-facilitating the peace caucus that generates language suggestions for governments to include in outcome texts, helps to organize NGO orientation sessions, as well as side events and statements.

WILPF continues to follow up UNCED, in particular by advocating for the inclusion of militarism on the agenda of the Commission on Sustainable Development, considering that the military is the biggest polluter on earth and affects production and consumption patterns so adversely, one of the subjects focused on by the CSD in 2001.

WILPF invites members to attend the Commission on Human Rights each year, and conducted a short-term internship for up to 12 young women for the duration of the Commission. It also follows the sessions of a number of treaty bodies and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and its working groups.

WILPF has not participated in any activities supporting the Global Compact with Corporations because the organization remains convinced that a voluntary mechanism of this type undermines the body of internationally forged legal

obligations to which corporations should be subject. Members object to the special treatment enjoyed by the for-profit sector in the United Nations Secretariat over other sectors of civil society that do not enjoy the same kinds of services, access and forums.

Activities carried out in cooperation with other bodies or specialized agencies of the United Nations

WILPF participated actively in the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism and the Conference itself. WILPF was represented on the steering committee of the NGO Millennium Forum of NGOs, leading the sub-group on globalization. WILPF participated in the Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects. WILPF played a leading role in NGO efforts to secure a Security Council thematic resolution on women, and continues to play an active role in the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security that monitors the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). During the reporting period, WILPF was contracted to develop a gender action plan for the Department of Disarmament Affairs. WILPF also cooperated with the Department in convening NGOs to participate in a governmental expert group on disarmament education. WILPF continued to organize its International Women's Day disarmament-focused conference, which generates the only NGO statement to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. WILPF generated information to attract NGO participation in a 2001 meeting on the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and coordinated the NGO presentation.

Activities carried out in support of the overall goals and objectives of the United Nations

During the reporting period, WILPF conducted intensive trainings on the United Nations for NGOs and members; and worked to educate the international public on the need for the United Nations to be strengthened and supported.

Other relevant activities

WILPF has continued throughout this period its one-year internship programme for two young women, as well as a two-month training programme for young women related to the work of the Commission on Human Rights. It regularly reports on United Nations work and on issues before the world organization through electronic bulletins, its web sites and articles in its journal *International Peace Update*.

5. Word of Life Christian Fellowship

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

Word of Life Christian Fellowship (WOLCF), otherwise known as Word of Life Ministries International, is a non-governmental, non-profit organization established in 1985. The organization and its secretariat are headquartered in Kingston, Jamaica. The organization is ably assisted by affiliates throughout the wider Caribbean, the United States and the United Kingdom. In November 1996, the organization was granted special consultative status to the Council, and shortly

thereafter forged a partnership and an agreement to provide representation for the International Third World Leaders Association. We are also providing representation for the International Communion of Charismatic Churches.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization is structured to facilitate a dynamic flow of information through networking with Governments and groups in an effort to facilitate partnerships for the exchange of skills, technology and financial assistance. The objective of the organization is to encourage development and growth; to be a voice in the global community for persons with respect to issues which affect their quality of life and their living conditions. Inter alia, WOLMI attempts to encourage inner-city outreach projects; initiate projects related to skills training, academic training, nursery school development, sports, environmental protection and workshops for entrepreneurs utilizing the "mustard seed" principle. This principle, which is a Biblical principle, encourages persons to begin with the little resources they have in hand to achieve their visions.

Local and regional initiatives/activities

- Meet and consult with government officials.
- Provide financial and administrative and technical support for other NGOs in the area of social and community development.
- Meet and consult with key business leaders.
- Participate in and present papers at major non-United Nations conferences and seminars.

2000

- Organized first ever non-governmental trade delegation to Jamaica, August.
- Convened two international conferences through an affiliate organization in the Bahamas.
- Convened over 300 seminars in over 100 cities covering leadership training, sustainable development, e-commerce, small business development, community development and the importance of education.

2003

- Hosted a regional leadership conference in Jamaica on the theme "Leading in crisis".
- Convened the International Third World Leadership Conference in Nassau in November, on the theme "Effective leadership for the twenty-first century".

Cooperation in United Nations conferences and other meetings

2000

- Attended the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on children, May-June.

- Submitted a report to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

2001

- Attended an UNCTAD conference in Brussels for the least developed countries, May.
- Attended several United Nations conferences and meetings and over 100 seminars on five continents, covering education, sustainable development, small business development, combating poverty and leading in crisis.

2002

- Attended the twenty-ninth session of ECLAC in Brazil and several United Nations meetings in New York and Geneva.
- Attended the DPI/NGO annual conference, September.

2003

- Attended the second regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board, September.